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FAUCHARD, THE UNKNOWN

P/ The commemoration of Fauchard's death in 1761, which takes place in Paris July 1 and 2, brings to mind that very little is known about the life of the great founder of professional dental literature. Aside from one or two autobiographical mentions that Fauchard included in the preface of his book, most of what we know of his personal life is due to Viau who rediscovered the manuscript of Chirurgien Dentiste, long unknown, and especially to that greatest of the Fauchard scholars, Georges Dagen, who established the correct date of Fauchard's birth and unearthed many details of the later years of Fauchard's residence at Grandmesnil.

There have been no new documents, pertaining to Fauchard, discovered in recent years. Yet not too much critical study has been given to the documents that we have, especially to the manuscript of Chirurgien Dentiste. In 1957 the editor of the Bulletin made a preliminary and somewhat superficial study of a microfilm of that manuscript and was fortunate enough to establish one or two definite conclusions and to suggest several lines of further more detailed investigation which might lead to conclusive answers. The study was able to establish as incontrovertible facts the following particulars, all of which differ from statements previously made by scholars who have examined the manuscript: (1) The manuscript is complete, consisting of volumes one and two of Chirurgien Dentiste; (2) the manuscript represents the 1728 edition and not that of a later date; (3) the manuscript is the "copy" used by the printer of the first edition. These are details, but they are not unimportant certainties.

In the absence of new documents, both the manuscript and the book itself, in its three editions, are worthy of further detailed critical study.

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Fasoli, Gaetano and Cappelletti, Carlo. "Prospero Alpino." Rassegna Trimestrale di Odontoiatria 41:597-611 Oct.-Dec. 1960.

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IMPLANT DENTURES

℞/ L. Izikowitz gives a historical account of the various types of implant dentures in Svensk Tandläkara-Tidskrift (54:51-67 Feb. 1961) with an extensive bibliography. The article is entitled "Implantationsprotesens Historia och Dess Utveckling Under 50-Talet." (History of Implant Dentures and Their Development During the 1950's.) L. Marziani covered much of the same material in his survey of implant dentures in International Dental Journal (4:459-481 June 1954) entitled "Dental Implants and Implant Dentures, Their Theory, History and Practice."

CARIES IN THE TEETH OF AN ANCIENT AND A MEDIEVAL POPULATION

℞/ H. Brabant (Le Journal Dentaire Belge 51:651-682 Nov.-Dec.1960) presents an interesting study of the teeth of two Belgian populations of different times identically located geographically. The older population lived from the fourth to the tenth century; the later population consisted of the monks of the Abbey of Notre Dame des Dunes from the twelfth to the sixteenth century. The interesting point of this study is that although both populations had a primitive diet, the older population showed a forty-five per cent frequency of caries, whereas the monks showed only four per cent.

THE STUDY OF TIME OF ERUPTION OF THE DECIDUOUS TEETH

℞/ Svensk Tandläkare-Tidskrift (54:125-138 March 15, 1961) contains an article by Curt Sjöberg reviewing the many studies, from 1860 to the present, on the time of eruption of the deciduous teeth.

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